

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, APRIL 1, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 749 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1895, 103,000. Registered voters, 35,579. Value of school property, \$500,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It's the metropolis of northeastern Pennsylvania. Can produce electric power cheaper than Niagara. No better point in the United States at which to establish new industries. See how we grow: Population in 1820..... 2,223 Population in 1870..... 25,000 Population in 1880..... 45,579 Population in 1890..... 75,000 Population in 1894 (estimated)..... 103,000 And the end is not yet.

If the Democratic party next year is true to its convictions, it will nominate for president William L. Wilson, of West Virginia; and for vice president, James H. Blount, of Georgia. It will also select as its platform: "The North be as it is."

The Reorganization of Councils.

Concerning the two official bodies which expire in the municipal building today it can with entire justice be said that they have done more to bring the legislative branch of the government of this city into contempt than any two councils in many years. This statement is made advisedly, and in due recognition of the worth of several individual members, who, although upright and progressive and thoroughly representative, have nevertheless been unable to outvote the majority in either branch, when it has seen fit to give away franchise after franchise and privilege after privilege to large corporations, without deriving for the city one penny in return.

In the new councils who will come into power today the percentage of reputable, law-abiding and honest members will be somewhat increased. We trust that this increase will be sufficient to put an end to the free dispensation of traction company and other benefits which has been in continuous progress in the legislative portion of the municipal government during the past two years. We propose to keep tab on the proceedings of these councils, and we hope to note a distinct improvement in the accustomed councilmanic workmanship. If we do not, there will be some fun.

Touching the city solicitorship, we trust that the good work done by Mr. Torrey during the past two years will be fittingly remembered and rewarded. He deserves an unanimous re-nomination. His work as city solicitor has not been partisan. It has been an honest and earnest transaction of official business for the whole city, regardless of politics; and it clearly entitles him to the votes of Democrats as well as Republicans. The sentiment of the people is overwhelmingly in his favor, not simply because he is a Republican, but because, as a public servant, he has put the affairs of his important office, for the first time in its history, in first class, business-like condition, and is, therefore, needed to complete and perfect the desirable transformation.

President Norton, of the Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn Street Railway company, the corporation which lately refused to pay living wages to its men, has been forced to resign. He made the mistake of overlooking the thing called public sentiment. Trolley managers who do that will come to grief sooner or later.

Democratic Maneuvering.

The victory of the Harrity-Robinson element of the Lackawanna Democracy in Saturday's contest before the county committee is a notification to the public, or to such a fraction of it as retains any interest in Democratic maneuvering in this county, that the conditions which have lately made the Democratic party heretofore a by-word and a jest even among leading Democrats themselves are to be continued for at least another year. Those Democrats who do not like those conditions; those Democrats who yet believe that hard party service extending over many spirited campaigns ought to be an abundant test of fitness for party honors, can seek by themselves. They are clearly not wanted in the Robinson camp, which prefers the companionship of well-dressed political amateurs and youngsters, in politics for their health.

It makes little difference that the president at Washington has given orders that Harrity must be unhorned. The Robinsons have secured from the national administration all that they want, which is to say all that it had to give out. The president, therefore, can

go hang. Democrats of the Harrity stripe waste no time in pretending so rare a thing as gratitude for favors already received. They perceive clearly enough that the present national administration has reached the end of its rope! It can bestow no more offices, and reward no more henchmen. It is dead, so far as all that goes. What they are now concerned about is the future and its opportunities. Let Kerr flirt if he choose with a president whose claws are clipped. They know a trick worth two of that.

The supremacy of Harrity in Lackawanna county is no doubt a fair reflex of the situation throughout Pennsylvania. Mr. Kerr, will unquestionably make a stiff fight. Had he won presidential recognition a year or two earlier, he might have been easily victorious. But now, the support of Cleveland comes to him and to his following as a hollow and mocking honor. The opposition has its pockets stuffed with plunder, its hand is on the party machinery's throttle valve and at the front is William F. Harrity, who knows his business from A to Z. Those Democrats who distrust Harrity or openly despise him must yield to his uplifted club or get out of the party, body and bearings.

The light means that, precisely. By what right does the Scranton Traction company run its cars down Adams avenue at a speed exceeding twelve and sometimes fifteen miles an hour? Who assumes the risks and responsibilities of accident arising from that excessive speed in a much-traveled public thoroughfare? If there is an ordinance limiting the rate at which public conveyances shall move, inside the city limits, why is it not enforced? If there is no such ordinance, why is not one passed?

The Income Tax.

A decision by the Supreme Court as to the constitutionality of the income tax may be made today. But it may not be made until a week from today. Rumor has it that five of the eight justices believe the tax unconstitutional; but this report is purely conjectural. Should it prove true, an extra session of congress would need to be called at once, to take steps to provide sufficient revenue to meet the government's running expenses, which are not covered by the income derived from the operation of the Wilson tariff.

It was estimated by the treasury authorities that the income tax would yield about \$30,000,000 annually, of which, it may be said in passing, the prosperous North would contribute three-fourths. Secretary Carlisle has figured that if the income tax nets \$30,000,000 a year and the Wilson tariff plus the postal revenue nets \$448,967,407, the government, by being very economical, can squeeze through so as to make both ends meet. This estimate was based upon the secretary's belief that the government's expenses this year would be only \$358,947,529. It is now clear, however, and from Democratic figures, that the government's expenses this year will be, not \$358,947,529, but more than \$498,000,000. Hence, even with the income tax, there will be a deficiency of \$21,000,000; while if that tax is declared unconstitutional and inoperative, this deficiency will increase at one jump to \$21,000,000.

Having twice sold bonds to meet current indebtedness, the president might take that pitcher a third time to the well, should the Supreme Court invalidate the income tax. But there would, under such conditions, be such an outcry from the people that it is more plausible to believe he would summon congress to an extraordinary sitting, and thus permit the Republican majority to share his anxiety.

A Philadelphia grand jury recommends "that the legislature pass a law making it an offense to remain in or drink liquor in a place where liquor is sold without a license; that all places where liquor is sold without a license should be considered disorderly houses; that all persons frequenting or found in such disorderly houses should be considered disorderly characters, and should be punished by the magistrates by imprisonment in the county prison or house of correction." The enforcement of such a law in Lackawanna county would necessitate the building of several commodious new jails.

Seed Grain for Nebraskans.

A number of Philadelphians, under the lead of the Press, have instituted a movement to send twenty-five carloads of seed grain as Pennsylvania's offering to the famine-stricken farmers of Nebraska, to whom seed time has come and found them destitute of the means of fresh planting. The Pennsylvania Railroad company, through First Vice-President Frank Thompson, has volunteered to transport this grain free of cost from points in Pennsylvania to Chicago, and no doubt some western road will push that good work through to its Nebraskan destination.

This action has been decided upon after consultation with Senator William V. Allen, of Nebraska, who assures the people of this state that thousands of his constituents, scattered over a large area, find the spring coming upon them with not a peck of seed to start a crop for the coming year. They have had to kill their stock to a large extent, having no food for it, and that which has survived is thin and weak. What is worse, they have had to use their seed grain to sustain life during the winter, and now, when the season of grain sowing and corn planting is nigh, they have no seed. Unless this deficit is promptly supplied, they will get no benefit from this year's crops, and their condition next autumn will be one of absolute starvation. There has hitherto been some uncertainty in the minds of eastern people

as to the precise amount of confidence to be placed in lately current reports touching destitution in Nebraska. The authority of Senator Allen ought to be sufficient to now set the matter in its proper light. Every city in Pennsylvania ought to take pleasure in contributing food and grain to the proposed Nebraska relief train. The opportunity is open to Scranton to take a foremost part in this charitable endeavor. Who will give a quantity of seed grain for the Nebraska sufferers?

The proposition, elsewhere outlined, that the present embargo in this state on the sale of oleomargarine shall be lifted, upon condition that oleo will be sold for what it is, and distinctly labeled, is a fair one, to which no rational citizen can offer serious objection. The light against the present prohibitory law is not one of hostility to the dairy interests; but simply one of common fairness. If people wish to buy oleo, deliberately and in their right minds, they should have that privilege. We believe that oleo, as a food, is better than much of the high-priced stuff that masquerades as dairy butter. Give oleo a chance.

With the next speaker of the English house of commons descended from a prize-fighter, who shall say that England is not becoming Americanized?

Speaking of jingoes, Lord Rosebery evidently knows something along that line, too.

OLEO PROBLEM SOLVED.

Outlines of a Bill Which Will Permit the Sale of Butter as Such and Yet Guard Against Misrepresentation.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Harrisburg, March 31.—The oleo people and the growers are likely to get their differences fixed up and agree upon a bill to be passed at this session. It is the oleo measure wholly or partly out of any fat, oil or oleaginous substance or compound thereof, not produced from unadulterated milk or cream, which shall be in imitation of yellow butter, prepared from pure milk or cream. Provided that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the manufacture or sale of oleo in such distinct form and manner as will advise the consumer of its real character.

Dealers who sell imitation butter are required to maintain in plain sight, where the selling is done, a sign bearing in plain black Roman letters, not less than two inches wide and four inches long on a white ground, the words, "sold here," preceded by the name of the imitation article. If the selling is done from a wagon or other vehicle such a sign must be conspicuously displayed upon its outside. If the delivery is made from the wagon or other vehicle a similar sign must be conspicuously displayed with the words, "delivered here," preceded by the name of imitation article.

To Prevent Misrepresentation.

The bill requires all imitation butter to be kept in an enclosing package which shall bear on the outside of its body and also of its cover in black Roman letters not less than one inch wide and two inches long on a white or light colored ground the name of the imitation article. The seller is required to inform each buyer at each sale that the article he buys is not butter and to give the buyer the name of the imitation article.

Persons or corporations selling or offering for sale any imitation butter, and keepers of hotels, boarding houses or restaurants, who furnish guests with imitation butter or food containing it, must within fifteen days after the passage of this act or within fifteen days after commencing business and annually thereafter make application to the courts for a license to sell and handle the same, for which right he will pay \$2.

The license so obtained must be registered by the food and dairy commissioner, who shall supply the applicant with the signs before mentioned, which must be placed in position under his direction. The food and dairy commissioner is required to make an annual report to the governor, which must be submitted to the general assembly at its regular session.

Bakers or vendors of food who sell or expose for sale any article of food containing any imitation of butter must expose the same kind of a sign, except the word "used" shall be substituted for the word "sold." The penalty for violation of the act is fixed at a fine of not more than \$100 or imprisonment of not more than sixty days, or both, for the first offense. For any subsequent offense the fine and imprisonment shall be double.

The fines collected are required to be paid into the state treasury for the benefit of the food and dairy commissioner and are subject to his orders.

Sound Finance Is Possible Under Popular Government.

John B. McMaster, in April Forum. Under the baleful influence of such periods of distress as through which we are now passing, men of sense and judgment lose faith in the success of democratic institutions and the wisdom of majority rule. It is easy enough, they say, for the great mass of our fellow citizens to form a fairly correct judgment on a question of public policy. But when the question to be dealt with is so intricate and complex as to be beyond the comprehension of the great mass of men, is it safe to leave it to be decided by majority rule? In the light of our past history the answer is, yes. Of all the people of the earth we are the most practical and the least theoretical. Experience, not theory, has ever been our guide.

The very constitution under which we live is a signal illustration of this. It was quite as much a business as a political necessity, and bears all over it the marks of a bitter experience. The dreadful state of trade, foreign and interstate, the disorders of the currency, the lack of a uniform circulating medium, the helplessness of trying to support a government which could not tax, these were the considerations which outweighed all others and moved our ancestors to frame and adopt the constitution. Any student of politics could have told them, and many did, that it was idle to expect that thirteen petty republics could regulate a common foreign trade as successfully as one central government. But not till the experiment had been made and failed were the people ready to bestow on congress sole power to regulate trade with foreign countries, between the states, and with the Indians.

Any student of finance could have told them that thirteen kinds of paper money issued on no security and maintained by tender laws and force acts could never become the circulating medium of a great people. But not until they had tried it, not until they had brought themselves to the brink of industrial ruin by the experiment, were our ancestors ready to declare that no state shall coin money, emit bills of credit, or make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts. Both cases were extreme, yet they are striking illustrations of the fact that in this country all question of great importance are finally settled not by presidents, nor by congress, nor by legislative assemblies of the states, but by the hard

common sense of the people who in their own good time and way have heretofore settled all questions wisely.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Jacebus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrolabe cast: 2 1/2 a. m. for Monday, April 1, 1895.

A child born on this day will probably regret it, but he will not be as great a fool as the fellow who laughs himself into hysterics over some fancied April joke that has been perpetrated upon a friend.

New doth the tenant pull up tacks, And independent prove Of grasping landlords, as he packs, His chattels for a move.

It is evident that the baleful influence of red whiskers will not be as marked upon the councils tonight as in days gone by.

Like the "hood," Judge Rice's superior court lawsuit runs the risk of dying young.

The Times editor threatens to go off and have a fit all by himself, if things are not properly arranged at the organization of the councils today.

Jacebus' Advice. Do not kick stray hats this day. Remember that profanity will not remove curses from the stovepipe.

Admit it, we must. There is too much dust On soliloquy beams, Mr. Sande, You'd much better stay Some distance away.

And list to the strains of the band, oh!

THERE is but one way in the world to be sure of having the best paint, and that is to use only a well-established brand of strictly pure white lead, pure linseed oil, and pure colors.\*

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